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Remarks

The Examiner's suggestion made in the paragraph "Response to Arguments" of the outstanding Office Action for providing "unexpected results in regards to the use of glass filler in comparing with quartz fillers" is acknowledged and duly followed.

Accordingly, a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, executed by the first named inventor Giancarlo TRAVERSA, and disclosing a back-to-back test made by an independent laboratory in February-March 2005 according to detailed test protocols (Enclosures 1 and 2), is herewith enclosed as suggested by the Examiner.

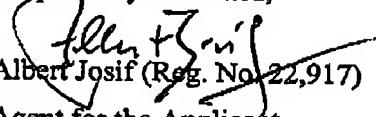
It is submitted that such back-to-back test carried out by submitting similar size test bars made of a material of a polymeric matrix with glass particle filler (called VO) as claimed and, respectively, of a material of a polymeric matrix with a quartz filler (called GO), in parallel, to the same test conditions, as described in the Declaration and Enclosures 1 and 2, clearly shows that the claimed material (VO) has *unobvious and unexpected advantageous properties* (*In re. Chupp, 816 F.2d 643, 646, 2 USPQ2d 1437, 1439 (Fed. Cir. 1987)*) as regards liquid absorption and germ/bacterial proliferation, over the quartz filler material (GO).

The explanation of such unexpected data appears to lie in the absence of surface, open micropores (in an enlarged view of up to 10,000x) of the VO material, which instead were seen to be present in the GO material.

In view of the fact that the present submission follows the Examiner's suggestion and sets forth significant, clear test results showing unexpected results in regards to the use of glass filler in comparing with quartz fillers as evidence of non-obviousness, reconsideration and withdrawal of each claim rejection under 35 USC § 103 and allowance of all claims pending in the application is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosures: Declaration executed by Giancarlo TRAVERSA;  
Back-to-back test protocols (Enclosures 1 and 2).